



UC Cooperative Extension Humboldt and Del Norte Counties 2008 Year in Review



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UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE COUNTIES OFFICE
AGRICULTURE CENTER
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Last year we celebrated the 95th anniversary of University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) in Humboldt County, the oldest extension office in the State of California. In 2008 we look forward to our 100th year and beyond. This year we decided to include Del Norte County in the “Year in Review” since all our advisors and programs cover both counties and work collaboratively. It is also important to point out that our office in Crescent City has been in existence for over 60 years.

I am starting this year’s review with a *thank you* to all those who have supported our offices and programs over these many years. In order to continue to provide our unique service to the community, it is crucial that we adapt to the various changes that are posed before us. We can view any roadblock as an opportunity to alter our way of doing business to overcome barriers, yet never lose sight of our goals and objectives. Our county-based Cooperative Extension personnel, programs, and science-based solutions bridge conflicting interests by bringing new knowledge, targeted research, and local education to complex problems and preparing common ground for informed and responsible decisions.

As we all know, these are tough economic times, yet the staff of UCCE is working even harder at delivering the best research, education, and information to our communities. In fact, through

our efforts we have been able to increase our grant funds and hire a few more individuals to meet our program needs. We have also looked at new ways to provide the high quality of service that is expected from our office in face of budget cut-backs. For example, with the financial assistance of our local 4-H County Council we were able to hire a VISTA volunteer for a 12- month term. As a result, we have been able to collect valuable data on how to best serve our clientele and improve delivery of the 4-H program. Additionally, I want to recognize the efforts of our county-supported secretarial staff for their effort in improving both our county-based website and university-based website. Both sites are now more accessible for our constituents to use and access valuable information.

When looking back upon Cooperative Extension in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, I am encouraged that through these many years we have and continue to provide information that is relevant to our clientele. At our office, we have hundreds of publications about growing vegetables crops from the commercial to backyard scales; fact sheets for organic growers; and information on rangeland/pasture management. You’ll find our indispensable pest notes, calendar of operations for fruits and nuts production, tips on lawn fertilizing, composting, and much more. I am excited that through the assistance of our partners and because of our desire to serve the community, we will continue to provide top quality service for the people of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Alan Bower
County Director

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**UC Cooperative Extension:
Develops and facilitates
the implementation of innovative, useful
solutions to agricultural, natural and
human resource issues.**

Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor

My educational and research programs focus on management and stewardship of forested ecosystems. I work with natural resource professionals from both public and private organizations, landowners managing industrial, non-industrial and public lands, and the general public. While I respond to current needs with specific technical assistance, I also have many long-term projects and roles.



Yana Valachovic

For those of you who have been reading this Year in Review for awhile, you know that I have a large program that involves monitoring the spread of the disease known as **Sudden Oak Death** and conducting a range of treatment experiments to learn how to control the disease. I have been fortunate to be a recipient of funding from the Forest Service to continue and expand these efforts over the last year and to maintain two great staff, Chris Lee and Radek Glebocki, to implement these projects.

The north coast is a priority area for this work because Humboldt County represents the northern gateway for disease expansion. With 250 acres under a variety of prescriptions, we have the largest experimental management trials to control and manage the pathogen in California. For the last several years, the lack of late spring rains has slowed the spread of the disease, while at the same time challenging our abilities to make definitive conclusions about the effectiveness of the treatments. However, our data does support the conclusion that a set of tools exists that can effectively control the disease at the small scale and backyard situation. With time we hope to be more confident in results of the large-scale treatment efforts. We thank everyone involved with these efforts and acknowledge their tremendous support and dedication to this research.

On the education front, this year, I offered a workshop on the new world of **carbon credit markets**. Carbon represents one of a set of new emerging ecosystem service markets where private landowners may be able to benefit from the healthy and productive services provided by their lands to the public (i.e. clean water, wildlife habitat, fire safety and newly recognized carbon storage). To document available carbon in a project area, protocols are being developed through a multi-stakeholder committee of the California Climate Action Registry; they deserve your review and input. Prices for carbon are still low and will likely be improved if a mandatory cap-and-trade system is implemented. Carbon represents a new item for a forest

landowner's portfolio. My colleague from UCCE Mendocino, Greg Giusti, is planning to offer another workshop on carbon in 2009.

I also co-hosted a **Community Forestry Conference** in October to exchange information and ideas about the concept of "community forestry" and "community forests". Community forests differ from other private or government-owned forests in that local

residents play a part in the stewardship of the forestland. In the last three years nearly 100,000 acres of timberland in California has been purchased by community-based organizations that are developing new economic and management models to address debt burdens, community expectations, and regulatory constraints. This conference provided an opportunity for a community discussion on the options provided by these newly emerging financing and forest ownership models.

Throughout the year we continued to plan the **Forest Futures II** conference (for February 2009) that sought to provide landowners and the general public with tools to better understand the current economic challenges and explore some emerging markets.

I continue to offer the weeklong educational program for K-12 classroom teachers known as the **Forestry Institute for Teachers** every July. This program brings essential natural resources curriculum to the classroom, thus providing tomorrow's leaders with the knowledge to make better natural resource decisions. In this fun week, thirty teachers learn about the ecology and management of Humboldt County's forests and streams and meet many of the managers, scientists and landowners in the region.

And on the personal side, most significant for 2008 was the birth of my son, Ellis, in January. His sister is enjoying the company and can't wait for him to talk.



Chris Lee



Radek Glebocki

our Sudden Oak Death Team

Susan Schlosser, Marine Science Sea Grant Advisor

For 2008 the core of my coastal and marine advisory program focused on a large collaborative planning effort called the **Humboldt Bay Initiative (HBI)**. The HBI project team explored alternative approaches to improve conventional natural resource management in Humboldt Bay and its watershed. An underlying assumption of HBI is that Humboldt Bay and the surrounding watersheds and communities are irreplaceable in so many ways. Its fertile habitat nurtures numerous birds, mammals, aquatic species, and valuable habitats. Its deep-water port provides important economic opportunities for the region. And its historical and natural riches create abundant opportunities for fishing, hunting, kayaking, hiking, and other recreational activities.

The mission of HBI is to promote increased scientific understanding of our natural and human communities; to create an integrated natural resource management framework that links the needs of people, habitats and species; and to facilitate community-wide collaborative problem solving. The project team includes community members, businesses, non-profits, resource managers, local government planners, and many others. Anyone can get involved, join the project team or a workgroup, or contribute your expertise at meetings. Meeting schedules are posted on the project website (<http://groups.ucanr.org/HumboldtBayEBM/>)

This past year HBI engaged in extensive collaboration with local stakeholders, with regional and statewide programs, and partners with similar goals and aspirations. Through our own blend of scientific understanding and conviction that local resource management needs a stronger scientific foundation, vision and leadership, HBI is poised to propose a program that we hope will help carry forward a shared vision for Humboldt Bay. The strategies we developed are intended not only to support existing, science-based, community-driven solutions but also to respond to problems that are not currently being addressed.

Through an informal situation analysis, we identified a range of factors affecting the bay and watershed,

including climate change, invasive species, excessive sediment, roads, development, shoreline infrastructure, and urban runoff. The following strategies were developed to address these issues:

- ◆ coordinate response to climate and coastal change
- ◆ coordinate response to invasive species
- ◆ study and control sediment sources
- ◆ promote sustainable development

Strategies developed and prioritized by the project team to address these issues will be compiled into a report available later this year.

Out on Humboldt Bay, the marine advisory program continued monitoring and research on **eelgrass** and **rockfish**. Humboldt Bay eelgrass continued to thrive around the bay's mudflats and juvenile rockfish were more abundant in 2008 than in the previous seven years of sampling. Some traps captured over 100 juvenile rockfish, exceeding our

previous record of 65 fish per trap.

The Humboldt Bay Initiative, eelgrass and rockfish programs are continuing in 2009. I look forward to working with all current program collaborators in the coming year and hope to add some new participants to the Humboldt County marine advisory program.



Susan giving a presentation regarding Humboldt Bay Ecosystem issues



Testing eradication methods on invasive eelgrass

Alan Bower, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor

This has been an exciting year for the livestock and natural resources program. I have gotten to know more of my clientele and have been encouraged by the input the public has given to the program to meet the needs of the community. Some interesting projects were started this year that I think will be of value to the region.



Alan Bower

I have continued to make efforts to perform outreach and education projects. During the past year I have hosted a **rangeland monitoring workshop**, and coordinated a **pasture fertility management workshop**. Additionally, I have been involved in guest speaking for both Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods agriculture and natural resources classes.

One project involves studying the effects that **Aleutian Geese** are having on the pastures of Humboldt County. We were awarded a two-year Western Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (WSARE) grant. Fieldwork and data collection began in January. The first analysis of the data will happen later this year. This project is being performed in conjunction with Humboldt State University Forestry and Wildland Resources Department and the local ranching community.

I have continued to work with the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District to collect data on a **pasture fertility study**. We are analyzing application of dairy manure on pastures to identify the optimum application rates for plant production and soil fertility. This is an important issue since soil nutrients and forage quality are a large part of the foundation for livestock production.

I have started publishing a **newsletter** and created a Humboldt – Del Norte Livestock/Natural Resources **website**. Both the website and newsletter have materials relating to various projects that I am working on, and information available regarding the program area. The website also has helpful links, using the “information link” tab where materials can be found on subjects such as, livestock management, invasive species, ranch planning, marketing, forage testing and on many more topics.

<http://groups.ucanr.org/humdnlivestocknatres/>



Aleutian Geese on pastureland



Pasture Fertilizer Study

We are also on the web!
<http://cehumboldt.ucdavis.edu>

Deborah Giraud, Farm and Community Development Advisor

This year's highlights included several educational programs and the continuation of some research projects.

I am involved with a new group called **Barns Again of Humboldt County**. This group has come together to brainstorm and plan activities under the umbrella of one tenet of Sustainable Agriculture: reuse existing structures. Barns are part of our agricultural heritage, and we are losing them in the rural landscape due to old age and decay. They give our county that rural feel and are appreciated for their historical significance and their visual appeal. Since they are frightfully expensive to rehabilitate, many landowners simply can't reconstruct and tend to replace them with metal structures. This group strives to record their history and find ways to assist in their reconstruction. Being useful of course for storing hay, equipment, and for housing animals, barns can also be used for farm stands, barn dances, artist studios, and many other agriculture and nature tourism activities. Additionally, a College of the Redwoods class used barns as their theme this year, and I am helping them put together a booklet on their work. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

I have continued my outreach to landowners in the area of **farm and ranch succession**. A two-part workshop was held in January. California FarmLink was my partner again, and we brought speakers from near and far to motivate people to work together with their families on this important issue. Those who attended had positive things to say about the impact the information had for them, and they are working on plans to help the next generation succeed. Keep in mind the implications of these points: owning (and/or managing) a business and owning land. Which do you transfer first, and to whom? I have resources available to help get you started.

The web based sales project for local foods called www.redwoodag.com is complete and ready to roll. Anyone with local products to sell can list them here. Also there are categories for labor and equipment. This project was funded by UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP), and I am hopeful that the local community will fully utilize it. There are now many national web sites about promoting local foods, and our



Deborah Giraud

growers are listing on many of them. Local food buyers, both for homes and institutions, can utilize this local web listing. Even if you are not a 'commercial' farm but have agricultural products for sale, please use this site. It is connected to the Farm Bureau, www.redwoodag.org site.

I presented and organized several workshops for the local community including: **Holistic**

Financial Planning for Farmers and Ranchers (a four-week series), **fruit tree pruning, growing your own food, backyard poultry** (with Alan Bower, Sarah Brunner and HSU Extension), and **canning** tuna and vegetables. Additionally I went to high schools to present **admissions** information for the University of California. The variety of requests I get for workshops these days continues to expand.

The revival of growing your own food is stronger than ever. I am advising on a collaborative of community gardens being led by RCAA. The **Master Gardener Program** continues to provide not only education for the participants, but also outreach to the community. We had our new IPM kiosk at the Fair last August, highlighting sound ways to deal with pests of all kinds, primarily insects. We will have it up at the 2009 County fair.

My **irrigation study** at Hopland Field Station and the **Easter lily bulb** research in Smith River continue with data collection and new methodologies tested. I have a grant from the Western SARE program for dairy goat work, and sent out a western region newsletter to commercial milkers. I work with Alan on the pasture grass study and have a few new demo plots out on organic fertilizers. I facilitated and taught at an HSU class in the fall called "Food Systems and Society", wrote a history of the Arcata Educational Farm, and serve on a committee to institute a sustainable agriculture certificate program at HSU. Along with serving on the Ag Advisory Committee at CR, I am very dedicated to finding ways to help **beginning farmers and ranchers**. I wrote several grants this year towards that endeavor and will be planning workshops for the winter of 2009.

Sandy Sathrum, 4-H Youth Development

4-H is alive and well in Humboldt County and would love to have you join us in teaching real-world life skills, workforce preparation, civic responsibility, and leadership to grow stronger kids, stronger families, stronger communities and a stronger world. We have 12 community-based Clubs as well as Guide Dogs for the Blind, Therapeutic Horseback Riding, in-school Animal Science Curriculum, Gardening, and Outdoor Environmental Education venues all of which deliver 4-H leadership, citizenship and life skills to over 800 youth.

Project Leaders are screened, oriented and trained to work with youth to deliver life skills through a wide variety of projects and many community events. They are supported by the 4-H office with curriculum materials and training. New leaders are welcome!

4-H Families spend quality time together exploring and growing in beneficial activities. 4-H youth work with adult mentors to become proficient in public speaking, leadership, problem solving, planning & organization, citizenship, personal safety and healthy lifestyle choices. They in turn share these skills in our county by hosting events such as the **NORTHCOAST Youth Summit**

(www.ysummit.org)

where teens (and those who work with teens) from all organizations become equipped and empowered to make our communities stronger. This year 190 youth and adults from Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Mendocino counties participated in the event.

4-H Youth also design and chair other events including 4-H Summer Camp, Humboldt Equestrian Ride for Life, Presentation Day, 4-H Horse Camp, Domestic Exchange, the Poultry Show, Postal Shoot, Ag Day. In addition, 4-H Youth assisted with the Tour of the Unknown Coast.

One of the keystones of 4-H is **community service**. Youth provide countless hours of service through their projects, their clubs and in their communities with beach clean-ups, habitat restoration, pet therapy to seniors, horseback riding for the disabled, Relay for Life, guide



Sandy Sathrum

dogs for the blind and deaf, Valentines for Veterans, Easter cards for Meals on Wheels, fair clean up, food drives and a host of support for community organizations and events.

In turn many non-profit youth organizations, businesses, service clubs and educational groups within our county **partner** with 4-H. This

year the community wide **4-H SET Expo (Science, Engineering and Technology)** was held at Redwood Acres. At SET Expo 500 members of the community participated in hands-on activities for inquiring minds provided by 4-H members along with businesses, government agencies, and local educators. 4-H is

emphasizing Science, Engineering and Technology in the next 5 years in response to a federal government call to increase careers in these fields.



Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Expo '09

We are continuously reaching out to serve new audiences. This year we have a **VISTA Americorps member**, Jane Harris, who is working to build capacity to underserved populations. We are conducting targeted outreach to determine how to engage youth that we are not currently serving.



Convalescent Home

4-H is a place where we are continually learning together to make a better tomorrow. 4-H Youth pledge "their heads to clearer thinking, their hearts to greater loyalty, their hands to larger service, and their health to better living for their clubs, their communities, their country and their world." There is a place for everyone in 4-H. To learn more visit our website:

http://cehumboldt.ucdavis.edu/4-H_Program/

Jim Waldvogel, Marine Science Advisor & Debbie White, 4-H Youth Development, Del Norte County

The Del Norte Extension office provides youth development projects through the National 4-H program and marine and natural resource outreach with the Sea Grant Marine Advisory program. The office houses a full time academic Sea Grant advisor, Jim Waldvogel, and Debbie White as a half-time 4-H Program Representative. Additionally the office is served by three cross-county assigned Extension advisors from Humboldt County (forestry, plant science and range management). The Del Norte County Extension office also houses and oversees the Smith River Advisory Council (SRAC) watershed coordinator position funded through Fish and Game restoration funding.

4-H Youth Development Program (YDP)

The 4-H YDP serves approximately 250 youth between the ages of 5 – 19 in community club settings. The community club program is guided by 55 adult volunteer project leaders. About 50% of the youth raise large and small animals. The other 50% focuses on leadership, citizenship, home economics, arts and crafts and marine science projects.

The 4-H Youth program develops responsibility and leadership skills for local youth. It helps youth acquire knowledge and skills to explore future careers and gain satisfaction from their work. The 4-H YDP develops positive self-image and teaches youth to work cooperatively with others.

The 4-H program also serves 100 – 200 youth through the **school enrichment** program in nutrition and other projects.

The Del Norte 4-H Council raised over \$14,000 at its **Soup Supper** to finance 4-H events, scholarships, leadership training, awards, and travel programs. During some years, portions of these funds have been utilized to compliment the operations of the 4-H office.



A group of Del Norte 4-Hers participate in this parade.

Annual 4-H events include County and Regional Presentation Days, Fashion Revue, Judging Day, Home Ec Day, Achievement Night, Small Animal Day, Del Norte County Fair participation, CAL-FOCUS at Sacramento and an occasional Washington D.C. leadership conference.

Community service projects include: Christmas stocking project/

adopt a family/food baskets; Home for battered women-brownies in a jar; Earth Day-petting zoo; Convalescent hospital-lap quilts; for seniors in Gasquet-sweetheart dinner; Emblem Club “Festival of the Trees”-hand-made ornaments and tree; Daily Bread Ministries–food; Del Norte County Fair-treats for Senior citizens; and beautification project-Lake Earl Grange and fairgrounds.

Sea Grant Program:

This year the marine advisor conducted local workshops, demonstrations, and made presentations related to the wise use and conservation of marine resources.

Jim served as technical advisor on the Del Norte County committee to evaluate and prepare local natural resource industries for upcoming management issues related to **Marine Protected Areas** and the **Marine Life Protection Act**.

He also served as marine resource advisor to the **Klamath Management Zone Coalition** and the **Del Norte Fish and Game Commission**.

Jim chaired the **Smith River Advisory Council (SRAC)**. The SRAC is a council of local entities that conducts restoration projects for Smith River anadromous fish populations. Jim supervises the SRAC watershed coordinator, Zack Larson, who is housed in the Extension office. The SRAC funded this watershed coordinator through Del Norte County with a \$50,000 annual grant from Fish and Game Restoration Funds. This position has initiated projects for the past 5 years that provided grant funds exceeding \$600,000. Some of these projects have been funded through Del Norte County CD and the newly formed Resources Conservation District.



Krya Coldwell, Molly Alton, Jasmine Spoelman and Qascheen Wilson participating in Breadmaking Day.

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Cooperative Extension Programs in Cooperation with U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California and Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

This has been another active year for UCCE in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. In this issue of our Year in Review, we have highlighted a wide range of projects that are having important impacts for the region. Below you will find some information about our projects.

FORESTRY

Continued research and education on Sudden Oak Death and carbon credits as they relate to forest issues.

MARINE SCIENCE

The launching of the Humboldt Bay Initiative and Continued research on eelgrass and rockfish.

MARINE SCIENCE—Del Norte

Providing expertise to the Klamath Management Zone Coalition and the Smith River Advisory Council.

FARM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hosting workshops addressing financial planning and ranchland succession for farmers and ranchers.

4-H YOUTH PROGRAM— Humboldt

Hosting the North-coast Youth summit and starting our first SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) Expo.

4-H YOUTH PROGRAM— Del Norte

Successful fundraising for scholarships and trainings for 4-H youth, as well as sponsoring attendance for 4-H participants to statewide and national leadership meetings.

LIVESTOCK & NATURAL RESOURCES

Performing research on the effects of Aleutian geese on pastures, and providing assistance on pasture fertility and forage quality.